

Q: Good afternoon. My name is Helene Tischler. Today is April 12th, 2018. I'm here at the Newton City Hall Law Library with June Goodman and together we're participating in the Newton Talks oral history project that is being conducted with the Newton Free Library, Historic Newton and the Newton Senior Center. So again, thank you so much for being willing to do this. Can you tell us where you're from originally, how you got to Newton?

A: Okay. Well, I was brought up in Dorchester way back when. And I went to the Jeremiah E. Burke High School for girls. It was for girls only at that time--I think now it's co-ed. And then I went to college at Simmons College. And I got married in 1954 and my husband and I lived in Cleveland Circle for the first two years and then we bought a two-family brick duplex in Newton. So I came to Newton in 1956.

Q: Wow.

A: And then when my third son arrived, we moved to a large single house on Woodward Street back in 1968. And that's where I am still. They have all grown up, they're all out of the house, and I am there. And even the dog died.

Q: Oh, I'm sorry. Where did your kids move to?

A: One is in Wayland. Another one is in Bedford. Another one is in Needham, and my daughter is in Westwood. She was the fourth one. So they're all local and I'm very fortunate.

Q: That's wonderful. Yes, you are. That's wonderful. And they went through Newton schools?

A: Yes they did.

Q: And how was that experience for you as a mother and for them as kids?

A: I think they profited quite well from the Newton system. They all went ahead and went on to graduate programs and they're all pretty well fixed financially, socially, and everything else.

Q: That's great.

A: So I have no complaints about the Newton system.

Q: That's good! And what about your neighborhood? What is that like?

A: Well, that has changed somewhat. There are more younger people with young families moving in. And I still have a next-door neighbor who is a couple years older than me as well, who's also lost her husband. And we do things together. We went to the movies last week, and we went to the concert at the library and...you know, she doesn't do as much as I do. Those couple of years make a difference. She I think is 88 and I'm not quite 86 yet, but I'm getting there.

Q: You look amazing. You do. And what were some of the things you recall about Newton as a young married--how it changed when your kids came along, things you did here...?

A: Well, I remember when they used to send the kids home for lunch from the Hyde school way back when.

Q: Really?

A: Oh, yes. It was very difficult for us to be working when we had to be home for lunch. And then there was a big push and a big campaign to not send the kids home for lunch, the elementary school. And I thought that was kind of interesting. And the high school was a great place, and then my kids also went to--I think one went to Meadowbrook, and the others all went to Weeks.

And you know, everything went fine. We had no problems. They all got through, did well, and that's about it. So I have no complaints.

Q: Right, right. What were some of the activities you did with your husband, with the kids--in Newton? What do you remember of special landmarks, parks, events?

A: Well, we always had dogs, so we always went to the puppy park in Cold Springs. That was one activity.

Q: Right.

A: We've had--I've had a dog my entire life. The last one died--I don't know, about six years ago. So now I get my dog fixes through my granddogs. One is coming this week because the family is going to Florida.

Q: Oh so you're babysitting. You're dog-sitting.

A: I am dog-sitting for a year and a half old chocolate lab who is very energetic.

Q: Oh my. Okay.

A: Very energetic. So. And then we used to go to Norumbega Park at some point. And...let's see, what else? There were always activities with with the children, you know, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, all of that. Participated in all those things. And then sports.

Q: Yes!

A: I mean--

Q: What were some of the sports they were involved in in Newton?

A: Well, tennis and softball and let's see, what else? Oh and then there were also musical performances that they were involved in too, especially my daughter. The boys not quite as much as she. And there were plays that we went to that they performed in and you know, we did the things that most families do.

Q: Right, right.

A: And it was very nice. We had a very positive experience living in Newton.

Q: Right. Ice-skating, anything?

A: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Crystal Lake, we used to go. Oh that's right, and in the summer and the spring we used to go to Crystal Lake with the children as well. But then we bought a home in the Cape. So, you know, we--I still have that home.

Q: So you were going back and forth.

A: Right, right. Yeah. And then two of my kids have houses at the Cape now too, so.

Q: Oh that's great.

A: Yeah. It works out well, because we're beach people.

Q: Right. Sounds good. Where did your family come from originally?

A: My parents?

Q: Yeah. To get to the Boston area--

A: They came from Russia.

Q: And were in Dorchester?

A: Yes. Yes. But they bought a house in Newton also, right after I think we did. They bought a two-family house in Newton on Aberdeen Street and they eventually gave it to my sister and myself. And so I am the landlady. I'm doing all of that.

Q: Of that property. And did you meet your husband in the Boston area?

A: Yes. When I was in Simmons, I was still, you know, living--I lived there for one year as part of the home economics program, but then I commuted afterwards, so I did.

Q: That's great. And were you working the whole time that your kids were growing up?

A: I always had part-time jobs.

Q: That was unusual--when you said they came home for lunch and the felt a mother would be there.

A: Right, well I did have a very lovely older woman who came when I wanted to work part-time. Because I never had my hand out of the career. I always had something good going on.

Q: Okay. And was this as a dietitian?

A: Yes. As a nutritionist--

Q: A nutritionist.

A: I worked on a special project in Newton in the school system with Dr. Jean Mayer, who was very well known.

Q: Yes.

A: Well I was the nutritionist who worked on that project in the school system. We provided additional physical education programs and nutrition education programs to the school children in this study. And it went for about four years. And I participated in that and that was good.

Q: It's wonderful. What were the results of the study?

A: Well, you know, they--it was questionable. It was--some people I have met who were in the study and I met them afterwards, and they were success stories. And I'm sure there were some who I didn't meet who were not success stories. But you know we just made them aware of what they needed to do dietary-wise and physical education-wise. And it might have done some good.

Q: Yes.

A: But it was written up. We had a pediatrician on the program and we invited the parents to meetings to explain the program and give them results and so forth.

Q: Yeah. And so much has changed in your field. What do you notice now in the work that you're doing?

A: Well, I notice now--I worked at Boston College with the students for--what was it--27 years.

Q: Wow.

A: Part-time.

Q: Yes.

A: And I noticed that when I first started off in the profession, there was no discussion of eating disorders.

Q: Right.

A: Okay? And that really made a difference, because at Boston College I was doing more work with eating disorders and weight control than anything else.

Q: So you were ahead of your time in many ways. And now what's the focus when you're working?

A: Well, right now I'm working at a skilled rehab facility. I work about 15 hours a week and it's at Lasell House, which is part of Lasell College.

Q: Right.

A: And we have a floor where people come in post-op or if they've had a fall, if they've had surgery or any of those things. And my job is to evaluate their background and prescribe the appropriate diet for them depending on what their medical condition is, and participate in meetings that we have there. And that's really about it. Oh, we do--we check weights. We have a weight meeting to make sure that people are not losing weight. We keep tracks on that. And I happen to enjoy the people I work with, and until they find out how old I am, I'm still there.

Q: You don't have to tell. They're lucky to have you.

A: Well, they feel that way. I've been there for 18 years.

Q: Wow. That's wonderful.

A: I tend to stay places a long time.

Q: Well that's good. That's a good sign. But what's changed for you as a woman in this--in your field and in Newton, sort of from where you were originally?

A: Well I think the importance of physical education and walking--you don't have to join a gym. You don't have to do aerobics particularly, but as long as you keep walking and moving and as long as you weigh yourself at least once a week and see where you're going. I find that--I do that. I weigh myself I'd say at least three times a week. I just want to see that it's not getting away from me.

Q: Right. Right.

A: But I eat everything.

Q: That's great.

A: I eat everything. I like sweets just as much as anybody else. I'm not a big meat-eater, though.

Q: Right.

A: Not because they tell me it's not good for me, I just don't.

Q: You just weren't. But did you notice a change as--the reception to you in your field as a woman? Going from where it was? Or you never had any issue?

A: I never had an issue. I never had an issue being accepted because I was a woman. And that field particularly, there--

Q: Right, right.

A: At that time there were more women in the field. Now there are some men. I think the women still--

Q: Dominate. Yeah.

A: Right. But I've never had a problem with being a woman in the field.

Q: That's great. And were most of the mothers working when you were--when your kids were in school?

A: Quite a few were. And sometimes the ones who were not working would kind of look after your children too on the street, you know. They would give them lunch or what have you and we would reciprocate as well.

Q: Right, right. So you had a nice community there.

A: Yeah. And I still have my very close friend since we were 13 years of age. We are still friends. We used to travel as couples--

Q: Right.

A: --and now the two husbands are gone, so we have traveled just ourselves on cruises and so forth. And now my friend is incapacitated and I'm still looking to travel.

Q: Sure.

A: So. But I enjoy traveling, it's--I have--this spring I have a very busy spring because I have two of my--three of my grandchildren are graduating from college. So I'm going out to Chicago -- Northwestern in June, I'm going out to Washington DC in May, and then I'm going to Cambridge, to Harvard for one.

Q: That's great.

A: And then I'm going to a high school graduation for one of my granddaughters. So I have a lot going on this week--this spring.

Q: That's wonderful. Well you can take them on a trip!

A: Who?

Q: The graduates!

A: Well, that would be nice. They've been everywhere.

Q: Oh, have they?

A: One of them is in Europe right now--the one from Northwestern. He completed all his requirements so that he doesn't have to do the second half of this year. So instead he's gone away with some of his classmates from Northwestern on a three-week trip to Europe.

Q: That's wonderful.

A: So he called me from London that he was leaving to go to Italy and--

Q: Sounds good! What are some of the changes you've noticed in the town since you've lived here? You've been in Newton quite a while.

A: Yes I have. Well, I notice that people are still very vocal and very active--

Q: Yes.

A: --involved in causes that they feel are important. And I didn't notice as much years ago, maybe because I was busy and raising children, but I see that now--it's great, that they do this. You feel strongly about something, I think it's great to follow through on it.

Q: Right. And have you been politically active in the town?

A: As a matter of fact, I have a picture with Elizabeth Warren.

Q: Oh!

A: Well, what happened is when she first started out, she had a fundraiser in the Windsor Club in Waban Square. And I just live right down the street.

Q: Right.

A: So one of the ladies who I work with said "Why don't we go to this fundraiser?" And so I have a picture with her standing right next to me.

Q: That's great. And you still like her. No, no, we won't get political.

[Laughter]

A: I do. You don't want to get involved politically.

Q: I'm joking. No, no, no. I'm joking. But we'll try to get some of these photos at some point. I hope that we can, really they're wonderful. So what are some of your best memories of the town? I mean that's amazing, you mentioned Norumbega Park. Did you go to the dances that I've heard about?

A: At Norumbega? Oh yeah. That was when I was much younger.

Q: Yes.

A: That was years ago. And people used to go there, on the boats, too.

Q: Really? What did they do?

A: Well, they--no, I mean, I remember they used to have Vaughn Monroe and some of the real well-known people performing at these--when you went to Norumbega. Totem Pole, that's what it was. Yeah. And then there--we used to take rides in the boats as well, there. I go back a lot of years.

Q: That's amazing. And how long did Norumbega last?

A: I don't remember when it--when it--the Totem Pole closed. But I remember it's a place that a lot of young couples used to go.

Q: Yes. And was it only weekends? Was it during the week?

A: I don't know if was during the week. I used to go on the weekends. But I don't know whether--I imagine it must have been open all the time. I don't think it was just a weekend thing, but I don't know for certain.

Q: Right, right. I've heard about it and it sounded amazing.

A: Yeah! Oh, they had well-known performers who would come there--Benny Goodman, I think, Tommy Dorsey. They used to all come to the Totem Pole.

Q: Yeah. I think they need to revive that in Newton.

A: That would be very nice. I don't think I'm going there, but it would be nice for other younger people.

Q: It would. It would. Any other special events you remember from Newton, being here all those years?

A: Well, let me see what else I can think about in Newton...Well, I've been very happy with the pickup service on the -- that's been ongoing. That was a great asset, because I know many communities they do not pick up things. I know in Needham I think they have to go to the dump, and in Wayland you have to bring the stuff to the dump. Newton has always provided this which I think was great.

Q: Yes.

A: Let's see what other experiences. I have to go back and think a lot for that. But...well I like the proximity of the supermarkets and the grocery. I can walk to Route 9 to CVS.

Q: Right.

A: It used to be the Elm Farm way back when.

Q: Really?

A: Yes. Way back when.

Q: So what did they have at the Elm Farm?

A: It was a grocery store.

Q: Really?

A: A big grocery store, the Elm Farm.

Q: On Route 9, where Route 9 is?

A: Right where CVS is.

Q: Really?

A: Yes. Yes. And then it was a HomeGoods I think after that. And then I can walk to Waban Square from where I live too. The Waban Market, I've been a participant there for years. And I like the idea of being able to walk to places.

Q: Absolutely. That's one nice thing in Newton.

A: Yes.

Q: You don't feel that you're way out and can't access--

A: No, because I have a friend--my best friend, the one who we've been friends since we were 13--she was out in Sharon and I wouldn't want to be there for anything. I mean, it's not--I like the city atmosphere here.

Q: Right. Right. It's more isolating for her.

A: And I've worked with a lot of nice people from the city. I mean, Dr. Sawyer was one of the people who was in charge of the health department many years ago. And let's see who the other--oh, John Athans, he was another one. He was head of the Health Department when I worked there. And it was really very pleasurable working for all these people.

Q: That's great. That's great to hear. And what's changed in Waban Square?

A: Well, they have a karate place--

Q: And that wasn't there originally.

A: No. And they have that flower--the flower shop there. And they have realtors there that I think were there before. I never got involved with them, but I think they were there. The Hardware Store--

Q: Right.

A: --that was there for years.

Q: That was there earlier too.

A: Yes. In fact the gentleman who ran that was a very nice gentleman and he just gave it up a few years ago, maybe three, four years ago. But you could find anything there. Now they have the stone pizza place that just opened up. It used to be a Greek restaurant.

Q: I remember that. But before that, what was it like in the square? Was there very little, just a grocery store--

A: There wasn't a lot. Yeah, no, there wasn't a lot.

Q: And the library.

A: The library, yeah, right at the end of the street. And that's still there.

Q: Yes.

A: But to a very limited amount of time. It's not open all the time. And I think the fact that the people who live in the area fought to keep that open was a very important thing.

Q: Right.

A: And I think it was manned by volunteers for a long time too. And I vote there. I used to vote at the high school but now I vote--

Q: Just at the library.

A: Yeah.

Q: That's convenient.

A: Yeah, it is.

Q: What did you notice about development in your area? Were there fewer homes when you first bought? Has it become more crowded or mega mansions or--?

A: No. We have no mega mansions in my particular area. These are the original homes--

Q: Right.

A: --that when I moved there, you know, the same homes on either side of me. I haven't seen any of the big teardowns, and--

Q: Because in some areas it has changed so much.

A: Yes, certain areas. I think they--yeah, I think Oak Hill, if I'm not mistaken, has more of the teardowns and other places. My house is fairly old.

Q: Right. But it's stayed pretty consistent over time?

A: Yes. Yes. Absolutely.

Q: That's good.

A: I've enjoyed the neighbors down on Carver Road. I'm right at the corner between Carver and

Bradford.

Q: Right.

A: And I'm friendly with the neighbors. Oh, and I've always walked the dogs. I've had dogs all the time, so, you know. I used to meet up with dogs constantly.

Q: Right.

A: In fact, now that I don't have a dog, when I see a dog walking by I walk over and talk to the dog and ask how old it is and what kind it is and so forth.

Q: So now you just have the granddogs? You're not thinking of getting another one.

A: Well, no, no. I don't--I think I'm having my fix with the granddogs. I think that's holding me, because the kids travel a lot--

Q: Sure.

A: --and whenever they travel they book me in. I've just been booked in for August--

Q: Really?

A: August sixth, yeah.

Q: Oh, my.

A: They're going to Italy. My son number two is taking his family to Italy, so he's booked me in for the dog. We have little white little ones--Coton de Tulear, which is like a Bichon. That's the one that's coming in August. And he was just here a few weeks ago. They're the ones who bought the house in South Carolina.

Q: Right.

A: And one of them died. The oldest dog just died last year. He used to come to me all the time too. That was a gol--a labradoodle, big size. And so I'm not getting another one. I just--

Q: It's a lot.

A: I mean, as much as I love dogs, I don't want to have to rush home at a certain hour and worry about where I'm gonna send the dog when I go on a trip.

Q: Right. Right.

A: I think I'm getting the best of both worlds by doing this.

Q: That's great. And you still go to Cold Spring Park?

A: Well, with this one that's coming this week--the chocolate lab--I cannot walk him, because he's so strong and he will pull me down. So I'm gonna put him in my car, drive over to Cold Springs, let him out, and throw the ball there with him and then let him work out for about 45 minutes. And then I will--he'll be okay for the day.

Q: Yeah. Do you go to the Farmers' Market there ever?

A: I have. Yeah. I have. During the summer on Tuesdays. Yeah. But I shop at Shaw's in Auburndale because that's right near where I work at Lasell.

Q: Right, right.

A: And then sometimes I go to Market Basket, but that's in Waltham. And I go to Wegmans.

Q: And when did you start going to the Senior Center? What's your community like there?

A: Well, I only started going there when our mahjong group that we had fell apart because two of the ladies--one went into a facility and another one moved with her son in Marlborough. So we didn't have a group anymore.

Q: Right..

A: So I went to the Senior Center about probably two or three years ago. And they were very nice, they took me in, and I'm one of them now.

Q: That's great. So you have a nice group there.

A: Yes. Yes. Yeah. We do. We've gone out to dinner together and so forth. And I'll probably have them to my house at the Cape this summer. They'll come down and visit and we'll play mahjong and so forth.

Q: That's great.

A: But I don't have the bridge group anymore, that's --

Q: Oh, so where was that?

A: Well, that--we had--we went to people's homes. We played bridge. And that fell apart and I haven't gotten another one together. I'd like to get another bridge group.

Q: I think they have one at the center.

A: They do, but it's the same day that I play mahjong.

[Laughter]

Q: How can they do that? You've gotta tell them!

A: Thursday, it's on Thursday. And they are right there, they're playing bridge. But I can't abandon my mahjong friends to go.

Q: No! Of course not.

A: So if something comes up, fine. If not, I'll survive without it.

Q: You should tell them though, maybe they can change the time.

A: Oh I don't think so. I wouldn't want to disrupt everybody else's schedule.

Q: Alright. But there's a nice community there that you've found.

A: Oh yes. Oh yes. Very nice, yeah. I go every Monday afternoon and every Thursday. Now it's closed next Monday, so we aren't playing.

Q: Oh right, Patriot's Day.

A: And my oldest son ran in the Marathon, so I always went there to watch him.

Q: Oh, wow.

A: Now he is 59 years old, so I don't think--

Q: He's not gonna do it.

A: I don't think so. He did it for many years. So I'm not going to the Marathon since he's not running.

Q: Right, right. I get that. And what did your husband do when--

A: He was in the liquor business. He was in charge of the company.

Q: That's wonderful.

A: Yeah. And he died at 77. He had pancreatic cancer, but that is not what killed him though.

Q: I'm sorry.

A: He had a stroke.

Q: I'm sorry.

A: He had his pancreas removed and then he became an insulin dependent diabetic and more prone to strokes and all that.

Q: Yeah, so sorry.

A: Yeah. Well, it happens.

Q: Right. And his business was local?

A: Yeah, yeah.

Q: Okay. So you had ties all the way back through--

A: Oh yeah. Oh yeah. Yeah, all kinds of festivities to go to for the company and so forth.

Q: Of course. Yeah, yeah. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about Newton, about the changes, about anything memorable?

A: Well...well, I like Chestnut Hill too. I'm not a Bloomingdale's fan, but all the other things--the restaurants there and the bakeries and--it's all--these are all that have come up over the years--

Q: Yes.

A: --that were not there.

Q: No. So you remember it when there wasn't that.

A: Yes. Absolutely. And I like the fact that the crime rate is very low in Newton. I think that's a very important thing.

Q: Right.

A: Although things do happen every so often.

Q: But you feel safe for the most part.

A: I do. I do. Yeah. I do. I feel safe living alone.

Q: That's one benefit of our town.

A: Absolutely. We have a minimal crime rate compared to other areas.

Q: Right. Right. And you love Waban as opposed to some other areas?

A: Well, I'm in Newton Highlands.

Q: Oh, in Newton Highlands, right, right, right.

A: I'm right on the border. Yeah. Right on the border. But it's--my sister lived on Amherst Road, which is right off of Chestnut Street. I was able to walk to her house from mine.

Q: Right.

A: And my parents lived on Aberdeen and I was--my mother was a big walker. She used to walk all the way to my house and then to my sister's house. And she--they were always--my parents were always trim, and they were always walking.

Q: That's great. So you got that from them.

A: Yes I did. I did.

Q: And so you love your neighborhood and your--

A: Yes. I do.

Q: Yeah. You never thought of leaving that at any time, or...?

A: Well, when push comes to shove and I become incapacitated, I may have to move.

Q: Yeah. But in the past that was your place and you love it and--

A: Oh, yeah. Yes.

Q: People have their loyalties to different villages, so--

A: I like Newton Highlands, I like Village Day. That was a fun thing.

Q: Right. Yeah.

A: That's been for years in Newton Highlands and then Waban got Village Day as well. But Newton Highlands I think had it first.

Q: Yeah.

A: And they have the dog parade.

Q: Oh do they?

A: People bring their dogs and--

Q: Do they still have it?

A: I'm not sure. I'm not sure that they do. I haven't gone to the Village Day in the Highlands for--

Q: A dog parade, really.

A: Yeah.

Q: Okay. There's a new dog movie, I forget what it's called.

A: Oh, the new one?

Q: Yeah. Isle of Dogs, I think.

A: I saw the previews and I thought it looked a little crazy, frankly. But...I was gonna go see it, but I saw the previews.

Q: No. Okay. You like the real thing.

A: I like the real thing. These are dogs that talk, but...no.

Q: So a dog parade, that's so interesting.

A: Yeah. They have so many good things going on in the area--the restaurants in Newton Highlands...I remember Mario used to have the place there--Boccabelli, that was his name, Mario, and he had the Italian restaurant that is right near the parking lot. And he used to have--every June he had a big party there and he invited everybody--

Q: Really?

A: Oh yes. And even recently at the Hyde School a few months ago they had a reunion--a 50-year reunion--and people from the area all came and the restaurant that's right there, I'm trying to remember the name...the one that's right on Walnut Street.

Q: On Walnut?

A: Yeah. Right near Centre Street--not--yeah.

Q: Not the Walnut Grille?

A: No.

Q: Okay.

A: That one I know too. That's the vegetarian one.

Q: Yes.

A: Right. But no. I forget the name of that restaurant, but I've been there umpteen times. It's right

on--

Q: It's the pub? Is it sort of the pub that's there?

A: Yeah. What's the name of it? I forgot.

Q: I'll think of it.

A: I will think of it too. O'Hara's.

Q: O'Hara's. Right. But now there are several new restaurants.

A: Yeah, but O'Hara's.

Q: The one thing you were talking about before was Abruzzi? The Italian restaurant?

A: Yes, Cantoni Abruzzi. Right. Right. And Mario owned it.

Q: Okay. I didn't know that, so--

A: Yes. And he made a big--with music and dancing and food. I mean, that's one of the nice things that we had.

Q: Yes. Well they still have Village Day, but I don't think they have that.

A: No. Well you know that 50-year reunion thing at the Hyde School, O'Hara's contributed all the food.

Q: Really?

A: Yes. It was amazing.

Q: That's great.

A: So that was the camaraderie that you saw, that they did this.

Q: Right. And so you went to that.

A: I certainly did.

Q: Did you know a lot of people?

A: Oh, yes! And my kids--some of my kids--they did. The one from Wayland came and the one from Bedford came and my daughter--they all--I think three out of four of them all came to that. And it was wonderful! We saw the teachers that my kids used to have that came. There was--it was really a fun time.

Q: Yeah. And how long ago was that?

A: That was just this past year.

Q: Oh, it was?

A: Yes.

Q: Oh, okay.

A: Yeah. I forget what month it was, but it was just this past year--

Q: Wow.

A: --that we had that 50 years of Hyde School.

Q: That's amazing.

A: Because my kids went to Hyde School. All of them went there as elementary school.

Q: Right.

A: And then they had the fire. There was a big fire at one point and it no longer was an elementary school. It's now senior housing.

Q: Right. So when did that fire happen?

A: Oh, that was several years ago, because the senior housing has been there for quite a while now.

Q: That's a shame. And you remember when that happened?

A: Oh yes. Oh yes. I remember seeing it burning! It was in the evening and we had just come in from dinner somewhere and we were going by and we saw the fire trucks and we saw all the--

Q: Did they ever find out what caused it?

A: I don't remember. I don't know offhand if they did or not.

Q: Wow. How long did it take to rebuild and put that center in?

A: Oh it took--I'd say well over a year, but I'm not certain about that.

Q: Yeah. No, I didn't know when the fire was.

A: Yeah, yeah, there was a fire.

Q: That's amazing. Wow.

A: And the Hyde School was a great place. I mean, they had a wonderful principal, Arthur Laughland, who was from England and he was great. And all the teachers were--they were all--we never had a problem with any of them, let's say that.

Q: No, no. Good quality.

A: Yeah. Right.

Q: It's a shame that happened.

A: I know. It was.

Q: The fire...wow.

A: But I've enjoyed living in Newton, and I certainly would recommend it to people. And I'm sure that when I leave my house, some very nice young couple with children and a dog will move in.

Q: Well let's hope not for a long time. Anyway, thank you so much for helping us in participating in this.

A: Well I hope it's been interesting and beneficial for your project.

END OF INTERVIEW